

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 3399–3440; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 73; and H. Res. 476–477, were introduced.

Pages H6464–66

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H6467–68

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 2937, to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 115–260); and

H. Res. 478, providing for further consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 115–261).

Page H6464

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Coffman to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H6301

Recess: The House recessed at 11:19 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H6309

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend William D. Johnson, Jr., Harbour Lake Baptist Church, Goose Creek, South Carolina.

Pages H6309–10

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that the instructions in each of amendments numbered 60, 61, and 66 printed in House Report 115–259 be modified by striking “the division” and inserting “division D”.

Pages H6326–27

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency Act of 2017: H.R. 3210, amended, to require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations;

Pages H6327–28

Escambia County Land Conveyance Act: H.R. 2370, to authorize Escambia County, Florida, to convey certain property that was formerly part of Santa Rosa Island National Monument and that was conveyed to Escambia County subject to restrictions on use and reconveyance;

Pages H6328–30

African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017: H.R. 1927, amended, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the African American Civil Rights Network; and

Pages H6330–31

Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran: H. Res. 317, amended, calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran.

Pages H6331–35

Unanimous Consent Agreement: Agreed by unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 3219, pursuant to House Resolution 473, amendments numbered 32 and 35 printed in House Report 115–259 may be offered out of sequence.

Page H6428

Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018: The House began consideration of H.R. 3219, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, July 27th.

Pages H6335–6428, H6428–37, H6437–62

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115–30 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

Page H6371

Agreed to:

Love amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that expands the permissible uses of MRA funds that have been designated for Member security to include residential security systems that do not constitute structural improvements to Members' homes;

Pages H6409–10

Kildee amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases the House Wounded Warrior Program by \$250,000; this program provides wounded veterans with employment opportunities with the House of Representatives;

Pages H6410–11

Cicilline amendment (No. 6 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases funds in order to provide designated baby changing stations for members of the public who visit publicly accessible buildings controlled by the Architect of the Capitol, including in both male and female publicly accessible bathrooms;

Page H6415

Russell amendment (No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits the printed distribution of the Federal Register to House offices, unless an office requests a printed copy; **Pages H6417–18**

Dent en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 115–259: Barr (No. 12) that transfers \$5 million from the Department of Veterans Affairs General Administration account to the VA's Equine Assisted Therapy Grant Program; Kilhuen (No. 14) that cuts and restores funding for medical services in the Department of Veterans Affairs in order to emphasize the responsibility of the Department Veterans Affairs to provide services to veterans and maintain health care clinics in rural communities; Beyer (No. 15) that requires Vet Centers develop a program to partner with organizations that provide outdoor experiences for veterans as part of a continuum of care that helps support veterans in developing a community of support to treat combat-related injuries; Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 16) that prioritizes funding for hiring more doctors, nurses, and medical staff at VA medical centers; Norcross (No. 17) that specifies \$5 million of funds for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) research for the purpose of studying the issues affecting veterans with PTSD and an opioid dependency; Keating (No. 18) that directs the VA to create an opioid abuse healthcare kit for community healthcare providers; Jackson Lee (No. 22) that increases the amount of funding for Supportive Services for Veterans Families by \$2 million offset by a reduction of a \$2.5 million in the funding for the VA's Information Technology Systems; Jackson Lee (No. 25) that prohibits the use of funds in contravention of the U.S. Code regarding benefits for homeless veterans in training and outreach programs; and Connolly (No. 26) that prohibits the use of funds for charging homeless veterans a fee to obtain a veterans identification card; **Pages H6419–21**

Ratcliffe amendment (No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits funds from being used to propose, plan, or execute a new round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC); **Pages H6422–23**

Brat amendment (No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from spending money on a study that causes significant pain or distress to dogs; clarifies that training programs or studies of service dogs are not included in the ban on funding; **Pages H6423–24**

Bergman amendment (No. 27 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases the Investigations account under the Army Corps of Engineers by \$1,000,000 and reduces Army Corps Expenses by the same amount; **Page H6425**

Simpson en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept.

115–259: Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) (No. 29) that provides \$10 million for environmental infrastructure for authorized reimbursements for projects with executed project cooperation agreements that have completed construction or where non-federal sponsors intend to use the funds for additional water resources development activities; Welch (No. 30) that funds the following projects at the authorized level of \$10M: section 1177 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (PL 114–322) authorized efforts to construct control gates, spillways, and dam safety improvements for aging flood control reservoirs built by the Army Corps of Engineers; Curbelo (No. 33) that increases funding within the Construction account for Army Corps Environmental Infrastructure by \$45,000,000 and decreases the Construction account by \$45,000,000; Nolan (No. 34) that increases the Army Corps' Operation and Maintenance budget by \$325,000 with the intention to provide more funding for the Aquatic Nuisance Control Research program currently funded at \$675,000; Larson (CT) (No. 45) that increases funding for EERE Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies program; Takano (No. 47) that restores the Energy Innovation Hubs in the Office of Science, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Nuclear Energy; DeSaulnier (No. 48) that restores \$1.2 million in funding for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program; Stivers (No. 66) that states that none of the funds made available by division D may be used for the Cape Wind Energy Project on the Outer Continental Shelf off Massachusetts, Nantucket Sound; Gallagher (No. 67) that provides \$10,000,000 for "Department of Energy—Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability" for energy storage systems demonstrations as authorized by section 641 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and decreases The Department of Energy-Departmental Administration by the same amount; Brownley (No. 68) that states none of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 2102 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 or section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986; and Rodney Davis (IL) (No. 69) that makes no funds available to the Army Corps of Engineers (Civil Works) to require an economic re-evaluation of any project authorized under title VIII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007; **Pages H6426–27**

Mast amendment (No. 32 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases Aquatic Plant Control Research Program by \$500,000.00 and aims to (1) provide science-based guidance on developing or using new technologies for managing, preventing, and monitoring aquatic invasive species; (2) improve the

efficacy and diversity of available management options; (3) reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species on federally listed (threatened and endangered) species; (4) reduce operations and maintenance costs associated with aquatic invasive species management; and (5) develop solutions regarding these species based on field needs;
Pages H6429–30

Heck amendment (No. 35 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that provides funding for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study on the extent to which the agency has used low impact development to comply with Sec. 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P.L. 110–140);
Pages H6430–31

McKinley amendment (No. 42 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases fossil energy funding to 2017 funding levels;
Pages H6436–37

Perry amendment (No. 43 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that increases funding for EERE by \$15,000,000 and decreases funding for Department of Energy departmental administration by \$15,000,000;
Pages H6437–38

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 49 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that redirects \$1 million in funding within the Departmental Administration account in order to address environmental concerns in both urban and rural settings;
Pages H6439–40

Foster amendment (No. 51 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that reduces the NNSA Weapons Account by \$10,000,000 and increases the account by the same amount, to be used to fight bioterror;
Pages H6441–42

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 56 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that allocates an additional \$3 million for post-disaster watershed assessment studies (by a recorded vote of 234 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 425);
Pages H6446–48, H6454

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 57 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that allocates an additional \$100 million for Army Corps of Engineers construction projects related to flood control;
Pages H6454–55

Jackson Lee amendment (No. 58 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits use of funds in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act and addresses the need to increase programs that educate minorities in science, technology, engineering and math;
Pages H6455–56

Gosar amendment (No. 59 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that prohibits use of funds in contravention of the Department of Energy Organization Act and addresses the need to increase programs that educate minorities in science, technology, engineering and math; and
Pages H6456–57

Burgess amendment (No. 61 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that states that limitation amendment pertaining to lightbulb energy efficiency regulations.
Pages H6458–59

Rejected:

Connolly amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funding for the Government Accountability Office (GAO);
Pages H6408–09

Shea Porter amendment (No. 8 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to prohibit the use of funds from Members Representational Allowances to mail any unsolicited mass mailing larger than the size of a standard US postcard;
Pages H6416–17

Mitchell amendment (No. 36 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to reduce by 10% the general administrative expense accounts of the USACE, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of the Interior, and Department of Energy. Transfers the savings to the Spending Reduction Account;
Pages H6428–29

Kaptur amendment (No. 37 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to strike section 108 on page 277, line 12, which authorizes the Administrator of the EPA and the Secretary of the Army to withdraw the WOTUS rule without regard to any provision of statute or regulation that establishes a requirement for such withdrawal;
Pages H6431–32

Quigley amendment (No. 40 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to cut \$921 million from the Department of Energy nuclear weapons activities account and add \$921 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE);
Pages H6434–35

Polis amendment (No. 41 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funds for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$986,292,000 (to FY17 level) and decrease funds for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$634,600,000 and reduce the National Nuclear Security Administration Weapons Activities account by \$352,000,000;
Pages H6435–36

Kihuen (No. 55 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to strike language that would prohibit closure of the Yucca Mountain project;
Pages H6445–46

Perry amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to reduce the appropriation to the Congressional Budget Office (by a recorded vote of 107 ayes to 314 noes, Roll No. 416);
Pages H6411–12, H6448

Griffith amendment (No. 5 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to eliminate the Budget Analysis Division of the Congressional Budget Office and transfers the duties of that division to the Office of the Director of CBO (by a recorded vote of 116 ayes to 309 noes, Roll No. 417);
Pages H6412–15, H6449

Takano amendment (No. 7 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to appropriate \$2.5 million to re-institute the Office of Technology Assessment

(OTA), offset from funds from the Architect of the Capitol's Capital Construction and Operations Account (by a recorded vote of 191 ayes to 236 noes, Roll No. 418); **Pages H6415–16, H6449–50**

King (IA) amendment (No. 23 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to ensure that no funds are used to implement, administer, or enforce the Davis-Bacon Act (by a recorded vote of 178 ayes to 249 noes, Roll No. 419); **Pages H6424–25, H6450**

Castor (FL) amendment (No. 38 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funding for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$177,000,000 and reduce funding for Fossil Energy Research and Development by \$355,000,000 (by a recorded vote of 181 ayes to 246 noes, Roll No. 420); **Pages H6432–33, 6451**

Norcross amendment (No. 39 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to add \$161.725 million to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for research and development to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies (by a recorded vote of 186 ayes to 241 noes, Roll No. 421); **Pages H6433–34, H6451–52**

Esty amendment (No. 44 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to increase funding to the Advanced Manufacturing Office within the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$20 million by cutting \$40 million from the Fossil Energy Research and Development; additional funding would enable the research, development, and deployment of industrial efficiency and clean energy manufacturing technologies (by a recorded vote of 203 ayes to 224 noes, Roll No. 422); **Pages H6438–39, H6452**

Garamendi amendment (No. 52 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to reduce the Weapons Activities—Recapitalization—Infrastructure to the President's Budget level and increases the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account by the same amount (by a recorded vote of 180 ayes to 247 noes, Roll No. 423); and **Pages H6442–43, H6452–53**

Pingree amendment (No. 54 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that sought to strike section 505 on page 325 that pertains to National Ocean Policy and Ocean Planning (by a recorded vote of 192 ayes to 235 noes, Roll No. 424). **Pages H6444–6445, H6453–54**

Withdrawn:

Bergman amendment (No. 11 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have reduced the Veterans Benefits Administration's General Operating Expenses account by \$30,000,000 and increases the Information Technology Systems Development, Modernization, and Enhancement account by the same amount;

Page H6418

Al Green (TX) amendment (No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have increased Homeless Veteran Treatment by \$70 million, and decreased General expenses account by \$70 million; **Page H6421**

Michelle Lujan Grisham (NM) amendment (No. 50 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prioritized funding for the construction of facilities that NNSA needs to meet its mission;

Pages H6440–41

Rosen amendment (No. 53 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have transferred to the Spending Reduction Account funding for Department of Energy disposal of defense nuclear waste, including acquisition of real property or facility construction/expansion;

Pages H6443–44

DelBene amendment (No. 60 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured the Army Corps of Engineers is using taxpayer dollars on American-made anchor chain;

Pages H6457–58

Budd amendment (No. 64 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have prohibited the use of funds to be used to implement, administer, or enforce the prevailing wage requirements in subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Davis-Bacon Act); and

Page H6461

Mitchell amendment (No. 70 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured none of the funds in this act are used to delay the release of the USACE Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) Brand Road Study.

Pages H6461–62

Proceedings Postponed:

Blackburn amendment (No. 62 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that seeks to provide for a one percent across the board cut to the discretionary spending levels in Division D of the bill; and

Pages H6459–60

Perry amendment (No. 63 printed in H. Rept. 115–259) that seeks to prohibit the use of funds to implement or enforce the final rule published by the Secretary of Energy entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedures for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps".

Pages H6460–61

H. Res. 473, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 3219) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 232 ayes to 192 noes, Roll No. 415, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 193 nays, Roll No. 414. **Pages H6313–26**

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and eleven recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6325–26, H6325, H6448, H6449, H6449–50, H6450, H6451, H6451–52, H6452, H6453, H6453–54, and H6454. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 12:22 a.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2017.

Committee Meetings

RENEGOTIATING NAFTA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Renegotiating NAFTA: Opportunities for Agriculture”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXPANDING OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS THROUGH EARN-AND-LEARN OPPORTUNITIES

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled “Expanding Options for Employers and Workers Through Earn-and-Learn Opportunities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

POWERING AMERICA: A REVIEW OF THE OPERATION AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NATION’S WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY MARKETS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled “Powering America: A Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Nation’s Wholesale Electricity Markets”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE EXTENSION OF SPECIAL NEEDS PLANS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Examining the Extension of Special Needs Plans”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

ASSESSING THE U.S.-QATAR RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa held a hearing entitled “Assessing the U.S.-Qatar Relationship”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2626, the “Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act”; H.R. 2805, to permanently authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Business Travel Card Program; H.R. 3202, the “Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act”; H.R. 3284, the “Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017”; H.R. 3328, the “Cuban Airport Security Act of 2017”; H.R. 3359, the “Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 447, directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Department of Homeland Security policies and activities relating to businesses owned or controlled by President Donald J. Trump. H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2626 and H.R. 2805 were ordered reported, as amended.

OVERSIGHT OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS’ STRATEGIC PLAN

Committee on House Administration: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Library of Congress’ Strategic Plan”. Testimony was heard from Carla D. Hayden, Librarian of Congress.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 391, the “Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act of 2017”; and H. Res. 446, resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Attorney General to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the removal of former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey. H.R. 391 and H. Res. 446 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee completed a markup on H.R. 825, the “Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act”; H.R. 873, the “Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act”; H.R. 965, the “Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park Redesignation Act”; H.R. 1074, to repeal the Act entitled “An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation”; H.R. 1418, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes; H.R. 1491, the “Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017”; H.R. 1547, the “Udall Park Land Exchange Completion Act”; H.R. 2075, the “Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act”; H.R. 2083, the “Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act”; H.R. 2199, the “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017”;